

Transforming Education in Rhode Island



The Race to the Top Opportunity

Race to the Top Steering Committee Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, November 27, 2012, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
The Rhode Island Foundation

NOTES

I. Welcome and Updates 4:30 – 5:00

- a. Welcome to Year 3 of Race to the Top!
- b. I Pledge Campaign

Steering Committee members are asked to encourage others, especially students and families, to make a pledge on www.educationpledgeri.org.

- c. October “Moving Forward” Group Meeting in Washington, DC

On October 1 and 2, a small committee of stakeholders, which we are calling the “Moving Forward” group, attended a convening with other Race to the Top state teams in Washington, DC. Our Moving Forward group, which includes representatives of the Governor’s office, RIDE, NEA-RI, RIFTHP, RISSA, RIASP, and the RI League of Charter Schools, continues to meet to follow up on those discussions and identify new ways to support Race to the Top work happening in Rhode Island.

- d. Educator Evaluation Implementation

This is the first year of full implementation of the educator evaluation system. Last year, we gradually implemented educator evaluation, collected educator feedback, and made changes to the evaluation model for this year. Evaluators are participating in significant training this year, particularly around setting Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) and calibrating evaluation ratings, which is a large investment of educators’ time that we believe will strengthen the system this year and in years to come.

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II. Beginning Teacher Induction Program 5:00 – 6:15

a. Presentation of the Program—RIDE

See PowerPoint presentation on the Steering Committee page of the RIDE website.

b. Panel Discussion—Rhode Island Educators

- Buddy Comet – Induction Coach, Central Falls
- Renee Brannigan – Beginning Teacher, Calcutt Middle School, Central Falls
- Joshua LaPlante – Principal, Central Falls High School
- Michelle Livsey – Induction Coach, Cranston/Warwick
- Alyson Gorden – Beginning Teacher, Westerly High School

c. Questions from the Committee

Q: How do coaches share best practices with one another?

A: Coaches meet biweekly, and in those meetings they pose questions to one another and share ideas and resources. They also share suggestions and resources in an online forum.

Q: How many induction coaches does Rhode Island have this year?

A: We have 27 coaches.

Q: How will we sustain this initiative once Race to the Top is over?

A: The entire induction program is supported by Race to the Top, and we are currently working to identify ways to support this program beyond the grant.

Q: What does the fact that new teachers need additional support say about the higher education programs they attended?

A: Higher education has been very invested in this program. We want to begin providing training that induction coaches receive to cooperating teachers that work with student teachers in our schools. It is part of the RIDE strategic plan to provide feedback to higher education teacher preparation programs to help them improve and also to change the ways in which RIDE approves the teacher preparation programs that exist in Rhode Island.

Q: To a beginning teacher: What surprised you about teaching that your education to become a teacher did not prepare you for?

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A: I didn't know who in my building to go for for various types of assistance – I didn't know anyone. My induction coach was able to tell me right away who were the resources in my building that could answer my questions.

Q: To principal: Because this program has been so beneficial to your school, if the state cannot find a way to continue funding it after Race to the Top, would you be willing to increase FTEs in your school and hire an induction coach?

A: I hope the state will find a way to continue supporting the program because I don't know that my district will be able to fund it. However, if I could I absolutely would hire an induction coach full-time for my school.

III. Wrap-Up

6:15 – 6:30

a. Schedule of Future Meetings

See schedule on the Steering Committee page of the RIDE website.

b. Potential Topics for Future Meetings

- Evaluation of principals and administrators
- Transformation of persistently lowest-achieving schools
- Roll-out of new data systems
- Data on how different Rhode Island districts are approaching implementation of Race to the Top projects